

## Addressing Inadequate Infrastructure and Social Services in Diwalwal



Source: [rappler.com/google earth/pulitzercenter.org](http://rappler.com/google-earth/pulitzercenter.org)

*(Davao City, 4 October 2016)* A strong and self-reliant community is supported with adequate social and physical infrastructure. The provision of adequate social infrastructure would lead to quality education, good health and sanitation, strength of character, awareness of one's responsibilities to society, development of natural skills, and respect for the rights of others and the environment.

Towards the attainment of self-reliance in the Diwalwal Mineral Reservation Area (DMRA), the improvement or provision of social and health infrastructure support facilities such as the construction of buildings for skills training, livelihood development and spiritual enrichment, more classrooms for students, hospitals and healthcare facilities, and sanitation and disposal facilities are the general interventions that the Diwalwal Mineral Reservation Area Management Plan (DMRADP) 2013-2032 seeks to accomplish. The DMRADP, 2013-2032 is a long-term development plan crafted by the various stakeholders in the area, spearheaded by the NEDA Regional Office XI together with the members of the National Task Force Diwalwal – Program Monitoring and Coordination Center (NTFD-PMCC), the Municipal Government of Monkayo and the Barangay Development Council of Mt. Diwata.

The Plan identifies measures to address the problems brought about by the mining activities since the gold rush started in Diwalwal.

One of the pressing issues being addressed in the Plan is the road network leading to and from Barangay Mt. Diwata. The area is served only by motorcycles for hire that are rather expensive considering the very poor road conditions. Some sections of the existing road network, particularly the Monkayo-Diwalwal road, are accident-prone due to dangerous road cliffs or slips and are without appropriate warning signs. The overall condition of the Diwalwal Road Network constrained the easy and relatively affordable cost in the transport of produce or goods from mining, agro-forestry and farming activities in the area. The situation also limits the delivery of needed social services to the communities. To tackle this problem, the strategies identified in the DMRADP are: (1) to undertake a comprehensive and sustainable infrastructure plan and maintenance of support facilities; and (2) to implement a well-planned road system connecting the communities within and outside the DMRA to increase accessibility and mobility.

Another issue that the Plan focuses on is the lack of developed spring water system to deliver potable water to the families in Barangay Mt. Diwata as well as in the adjoining barangays. Likewise, an urgent requirement is for an appropriate waste disposal facility for

the domestic solid waste generated by the communities. The construction of such facilities will ensure the preservation of available agricultural lands and pollution prevention of water bodies in the area which are currently used as dumpsites.

Other facilities that need to be provided in Barangay Mt. Diwata are adequate safe and decent housing, health facilities like clinics and day care centers; schools; multi-purpose building/facilities for livelihood training and other community events; and agricultural facilities.

To address these challenges, some of the proposed major programs, activities and projects (PAPs) identified for the DMRA are: the designation of areas for processing plants, relocation of residents to the Mabatás area, housing development through the Core Shelter Program (Gawad-Kalinga Scheme), conversion of Monkayo-Diwalwal road into a national road, construction of school buildings, and provision of comprehensive and affordable health care and sanitation services, all in Barangay Mt. Diwata.

These PAPs identified in the investment program of the DMRADP are proposed to be implemented by the Davao Regional Offices of DENR, EMB, MGB, DPWH, DepEd, DA, DILG, DTI, DSWD, the Local Government of Compostela Valley, and the Barangay LGUs of Mt. Diwata, Naboc, Upper Ulip, and Mangayon. Funding for these PAPs shall employ various financing mechanisms, including national government funding, Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Public-private partnership (PPP).

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*(Jaime P. Mallare, NEDA XI).*